

St Leonard's Church, Ryton-on-Dunsmore:
Newsletter April 2026

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You can hire our church hall for either one-off occasions or regular meetings. Contact Emma Hunt
stleonardschurchryton@gmail.com

Benefice SERVICES: April 2026

DATE	Wolston	Church Lawford	Ryton
March 29: PALM SUNDAY	11.00am: Morning Worship. 3.00pm: Messy Church.	5.00pm: Holy Communion.	9.15am: Parish Communion.
April 2 MAUNDY THURSDAY.	10.30am: United Benefice Holy Communion at St. Margaret's Church, Wolston. 7.30pm: United Service at Wolston Baptist Church		
April 3 GOOD FRIDAY.	11.00am: Good Friday Service.		10.00am: Good Friday Workshop and Worship.
April 5 EASTER DAY	11.00 am: Holy Communion.	9.15am: Holy Communion.	9.15am: Parish Communion.
April 12 Easter 2	11.00am: Morning Worship.	5.00pm: Evening Prayer. BCP.	9.15am: Parish Communion.
April 19 Easter 3	11.00am: Morning Worship.	9.15am: Family Service.	5.00 pm: Holy Communion.
April 26 Easter 4	11.00am: Family Service.	5.00pm: Holy Communion.	9.15am: Morning Service.
May 3 Easter 5	11.00am: Holy Communion.	5.00pm: Holy Communion.	5.00pm: Messy Church.

DATE	Wolston	Church Lawford	Ryton
May 10 Easter 6	11.00am: Morning Worship.	5.00pm: Evening Prayer.	9.15am: Parish Communion.
Thursday, May 14: Ascension Day.	10.30am: United Benefice Holy Communion at Wolston.		

At Ryton: Wednesday April 8 and Wednesday, May 12: 11.30 am: Holy Communion. This service is of course open to everyone- not just Lunch Club members.

At 10:30 on Thursday morning every week there is a service of Holy Communion at St. Margaret's church, Wolston. Also, of course, open to everyone.

From the Church register: No entries for March.

From our Minister, the Revd Malcolm Ingham.

Dying to see you

Death has been a bit personal recently, I've faced a family bereavement – not my first, but this was a bit out of the blue.

Again, not unique, both of my best friends at school died when I wasn't expecting it and these days I can't help feeling a little sad every time I hear "Atomic" by Blondie on the radio – it reminds me of the time the three of us cycled to Southport and went to the Funfair where they played that song on repeat. Now I'm the only one with that memory.

After recent events I am again reminded that someone I loved has gone- but here's the thing, I'm not stuck in memories, I'm convinced that I'll see them again. What makes me sure of that is Easter. Easter is when Jesus, on the cross on the day that we call Good Friday, died my death in my place. Outside the city walls of Jerusalem, God himself hung in my place – held there by nails (and more crucially by my stubborn rebellion against God – shorthand for which is "sin") and as he did so, he took upon himself everything I had done that would quite rightly separate me from God forever, in other words, my stubborn rebellion against God.

And he died.

But then, three days later, he rose again – he conquered death to show that my sin had been wiped away so that I too could be certain to rise again with him if I trusted in what he’s done for me.

So, I am convinced that when I die, I will live - I will live forever with God because he loves me before I ever loved him.

And as I live eternally, I will see Jesus; my Lord and Saviour. And because he didn’t just die for me then I will see my friends and family members and so many more people who also put their hope and trust and faith in him because he has bought them back from death too.

I love the way a modern rendition of one of the great old hymns puts it;

“He [Jesus] lives triumphant from the grave

He lives eternally to save

And what joy this blest assurance gives

I know that my redeemer lives”

I can’t wait to see who has put their faith in God’s amazing rescue plan and is with him for all eternity, and I especially can’t wait to see Jesus, my redeemer who has bought me back from death.

First I will need to pass through death myself, but my friends, let me tell you, on that day I’ll be dying to see you there too. Happy Easter! Malcolm.

Church Floodlighting.

April 6: Birthday memories of

Sydney Charles Howard.

April 8: Loving memories of **Jim and Sally Parke.**

April 9: Birthday memories of **Connor Dixon.**

April 11: Anniversary memories of **Neil Rankin.**

April 13: Birthday memories of **John Hathaway.**

April 26: Anniversary memories of **Ken Batchelor.**



Many thanks to June Backholler for devising and organising the Floodlighting scheme over many years.

- **Would you like to floodlight our beautiful church in memory of a loved one, or in celebration of a special event? If so, please contact June with the details. Voluntary donations in aid of church funds are welcome: details from June, or from Janet Smith on 02476 306224.**



St. Leonard's Church Ryton-on-Dunsmore Did You Know?

Our lovely church was founded in 1080 and is one of the oldest churches in Warwickshire. Imagine the styles of villagers' costumes, over the ages, walking through the Norman doorway.

It costs nearly £2,000 per month to keep that door open.

This only includes essentials such as the Insurance, Heating, Lighting, Water, Cleaning, Churchyard Maintenance and Parish Share.

We want to keep that beautiful door open for our community- but we cannot do it on our own!

WAYS YOU CAN HELP US

1. Come and join our friendly congregation at one of our weekly services – children are always welcome.

2. Make regular donations through the envelope scheme or Direct Debit.

Sort Code: 09 01 54, Account Number 99403282, please put Appeal and your surname as the reference. Cheques payable to St Leonard's Church, Ryton

3. Make a one-off donation.

4. Support our fundraising activities.

5. Consider leaving a gift to St Leonard's in your will.

OPEN DAY

St Leonard's will be open from 2.00 pm to 4.00 pm, Sunday 12th April.

Please visit us and enjoy the Easter flowers and a cup of tea!

Meet members of the Parochial Church Council.

Find out more at www.stleonardschurchryton.org.uk



Lunch Club.

We celebrated Maude Trew's 100th birthday at our March gathering.

Emma Jenkins (on the right of the photo below) made Maude's beautiful cake. We all had a delicious meal cooked by these lovely folk dressed in green to celebrate St. Patrick's tide.

A 2 course meal costs £5 and transport is available. There is an opportunity for you to attend the short, said Communion Service at 11.30 am. Please contact Hazel on 02476 456711.



Coffee Morning



This is becoming a very popular event. Why not come and join us for coffee, tea, cake and biscuits in the Church Centre? The April meeting will be on April 22nd from 10 am to 12 noon.

Please bring your friends. We suggest a £2 donation.

Contact Hazel on 02476 456711 about Lunch Club and Coffee Mornings.

A promotional poster for a one-man show. The background is black. On the left, the title 'GOD, THE BIBLE & EVERYTHING (IN 60 MINUTES)' is written in large, 3D, blue block letters. Above the title are a blue sand timer and a blue Bible. On the right, a man with a beard and glasses, wearing a white shirt, stands with his hands in his pockets. Below the title, the text 'Saturday 16th May 7.30pm', 'St. Margaret's, Wolston', and 'More details soon' is written in white.

God, the Bible and Everything (in 60 Minutes)

Brace yourself for a hilarious one-man show with BBC comedy writer James Cary (Miranda, Bluestone 42).

In just 60 minutes, James unpacks the entire Bible—yes, the whole thing—with jokes, props, a big screen, and maybe a song.

Can he pack all this into an hour? Come and find out!

Saturday 16th May 7.30pm, St. Margaret's Wolston

More details, including price, soon



shutterstock.com - 2462150613

Thank you!

- Thank you to Janet Smith, who faithfully keeps up the tradition of “Auntie Jean”, so beloved by all, and makes sure that there are always beautiful flower arrangements in church.
- We would like to invite others to cover some

weeks, perhaps in memory of a loved one, or to celebrate a special anniversary or other happy event. You can arrange this either by coming into church to do the arrangement in person, or by making a donation and Janet will do it for you.

- **Donations towards Easter lilies especially welcome.**
- Suggested donation amount: £5-10. Contact Janet on Tel. 02476 306224, mobile 07471 416636 to arrange your date(s)

Ryton Evergreens 50+ Club

We are a very friendly group, who meet on the First Tuesday of the month from 2 pm to 4 pm in the village hall.

Transport and refreshments are provided; we would love to welcome new members.

We have Talks, Quizzes, Games and Raffles- please come along.

For further information contact Bill on 07790 078774 or Doug on 07599 280178.

**Recycle your used
printer cartridges**



John Church writes: We can now take all ink cartridges, laser and toner cartridges, although we only get paid for the chunky types; the others are disposed of without going into land fill.

If anyone has the chunky printer cartridges that we can recycle, please let me have them- there is a plastic box for them just outside the Ryton Church Centre door. At Bubbenhall, please leave your cartridges at the back of church, or with Craig Greenway.

Stop Press: I have just received notification from recycle 4 charity that we will be receiving £25.00 for our recycled printing cartridges.

Messy Church- 1st Sunday of the Month at 5.00 pm
making and doing
talking and singing
fun and thoughtful
friendly and welcoming
something for all ages
refreshments
Come and join us!



Next service May 3 at 5.00 pm.

Our churchyard: Tidy up sessions.



The Churchyard Tidy Up normally takes place on the third Saturday of each month from 10am - 12pm. The work is undertaken by volunteers who give their time to keep the churchyard in an attractive and pleasant state. The jobs include mowing, strimming, hedge cutting, cleaning seats, clearing paths, pruning and weeding.

We have the tools to use, all we need now is a few more volunteers. You don't even have to have 'green fingers' to support the team. If you can help, please contact Steve Witter on 07887 833369 or just turn up on the day. Refreshments will be provided. Thank you!



Thank you to everyone who volunteers and helps to keep the churchyard tidy. If you can't manage our regular meeting times but would like to help at a different time, please get in touch with Steve. There are a few people that do this, and it is very much appreciated.

You are respectfully reminded please to remove Christmas wreaths placed on graves in memory of loved ones as soon as possible. The Churchyard Tidy-up team has started removing and disposing of any wreaths that remain. Thank you for your help in this matter.



Thank you to Tidy-up volunteer David Butler for clearing the entrance from the car park and planting the area with snowdrops.

Ryton on Dunsmore History Group.

We hope you will join us and help support your history group, preserving Ryton's rich and historical heritage. For more information, contact Steve Garrett, on 07587699234 or e mail carrotfromryton@gmail.com

RYTON-ON-DUNSMORE

Twirls

the **WI**
INSPIRING WOMEN



Thursday 16 April
at 7.30pm



New Venue
St Leonard's Church Centre,
Ryton-on-Dunsmore

Members
FREE

Visitors are
very welcome
£6

Raffle
£1 per ticket
or £3 for 5 tickets



Donations for Warwickshire Search and Rescue
can be given on the evening

An Exciting Evening with a talk from

IAN MALINS
of Warwickshire Search and Rescue

Most people have heard of **Mountain Rescue**,
but few have heard of **Lowland Rescue**.
Ian Malins, Search Manager and Trustee with
Warwickshire Search and Rescue will explain
how volunteers help the police search for high risk,
vulnerable missing people across
Coventry and **Warwickshire**
and answer all of your questions.

Bring your own drinks and nibbles

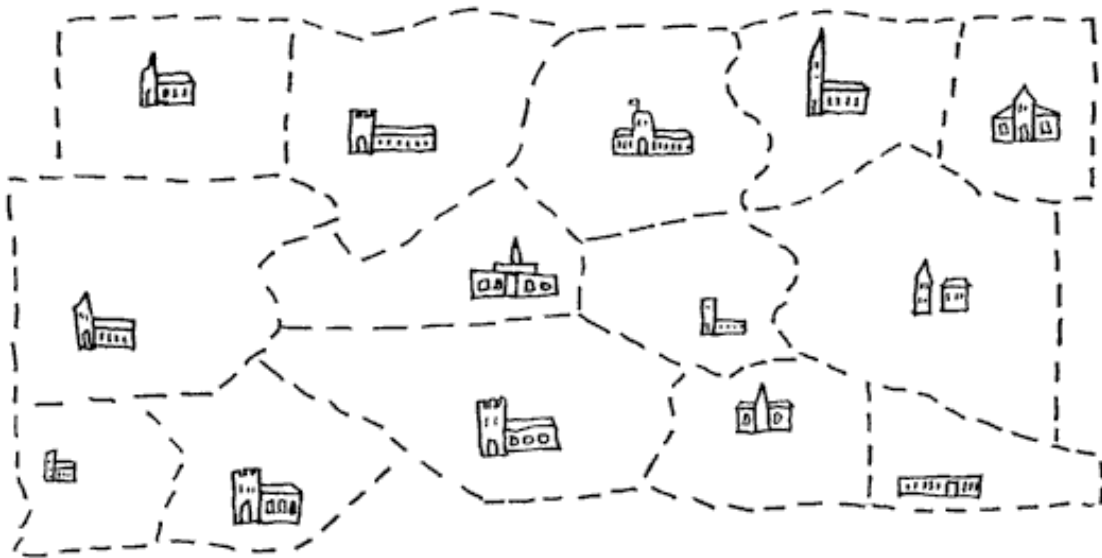


Email
twirlsrytonondunsmorewi@gmail.com



THE PARISH SYSTEM

THE ENTIRE COUNTRY IS DIVIDED INTO PARISHES. EACH ONE HAS ITS OWN CHURCH. EVERYBODY GOES TO THEIR LOCAL PARISH CHURCH*



* UNLESS IT IS TOO HIGH, TOO LOW, TOO LIBERAL, TOO EVANGELICAL, TOO CATHOLIC, TOO MIDDLE OF THE ROAD, TOO UNBIBLICAL, HAS TOO MANY BELLS AND SMELLS, HAS TOO MANY SMELLS, HAS SERMONS THAT ARE TOO LONG, HAS TOO MANY CHILDREN, HAS NOT ENOUGH CHILDREN, HAS NO SUNDAY SCHOOL, HAS MUSIC THAT IS TOO OLD FASHIONED, HAS MUSIC THAT IS TOO HAPPY CLAPPY, HAS A VICAR WHO IS A WOMAN, HAS A VICAR WHO IS A MAN, HAS A VICAR WHO IS A BIT ODD, HAS SERVICES THAT START TOO EARLY IN THE MORNING, HAS REALLY BAD COFFEE AFTER THE SERVICES, HAS PARTICULARLY UNCOMFORTABLE PEWS, HAS SERVICES THAT CLASH WITH SUNDAY LUNCH PREPARATION TIME, HAS SERVICES THAT DON'T USE THE BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER, HAS SERVICES THAT DO USE THE BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER OR ISN'T THE CHURCH ASSOCIATED WITH THE PRIMARY SCHOOL THEY HAD IN MIND

CartoonChurch.com

A reflection from Rosemary. Can you believe it?



We're probably all familiar with the story of Doubting Thomas.

After Jesus was killed and after he came alive again on the first Easter Day, so the account goes, he visited his frightened friends, who were hiding away, terrified that they might be the next victims on the Roman governor's hit-list.

Well, they were of course both shocked and delighted to see Jesus, and when they saw their friend Thomas, who hadn't been there at the time, they told him that Jesus was alive again.

And of course, Thomas didn't believe it- well, would you?

And the story goes on to tell how, a week later, Jesus visited his friends again,

and invited Thomas to touch the wounds of the crucifixion that were still in his hands and his side.

And then, of course, Thomas believed.

Believed the unbelievable, that this dead man who had been his friend, was alive again.

Well, he couldn't help but believe, could he, when he saw Jesus there in front of him, and when Jesus said "Come on, touch the nail-holes in my hands. Put your hand into the wound in my side."

Seeing is believing, touching is believing.

It doesn't come easy though, in our day and age, to believe that Jesus rose from the dead. It's counter-cultural, isn't it? I mean, we're brought up to believe only what can be proved, only things that we can see and touch.

Scientific evidence. We're all Thomases now.

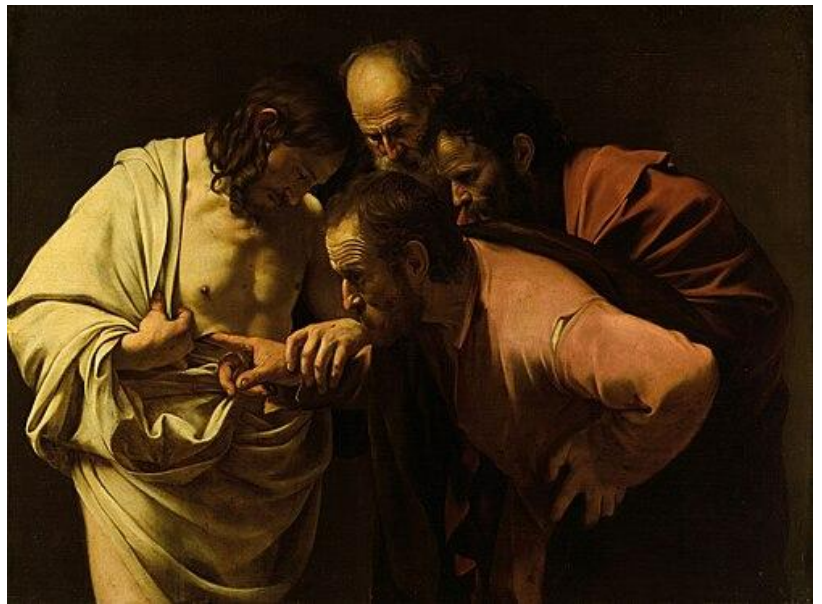
And even if you do believe it, well you might think, that's very nice for Jesus. I'm really happy for him, I'm really glad that God brought him back to life again after he had been betrayed and tortured and hung up on a cross to die, because all that wasn't fair.

It wasn't fair, it was evil, what men did to Jesus on Good Friday.

So I'm glad that he was raised from the dead. That's really nice.

But, you might well add, but all that was a long time ago. It was very nice for Jesus, he was a special case and I'm truly glad for him, but what's in it for me? Why should Jesus coming back to life 2000 years ago be a cause for celebration for me, here and now, in the year 2026?

Well, as Christians, we're not just celebrating the fact that Jesus was dead and came to life again 2000 years ago.



We're celebrating the fact that he stayed alive, and that he still is alive, still with us, whether we recognise it or not, still following all our ways. He's not visible and touchable any more, the way he was to Thomas and his other friends, but Christians believe that he lives in us and with us and is always near us through his Holy Spirit.

For Christians, Jesus isn't a dead hero, but a living Lord.

Alive and on the loose in this very world we live in.

And we can relate to him and talk to him: that's called prayer.

People have related to him and prayed to him all through the centuries that have passed since Jesus lived on earth.

Millions and millions of people still do it.

And these people know that Jesus is always close to them, helping them and comforting them and guiding them.

So that's what's in it for us.

But can you believe it? In this day and age, dare you believe it, *ought* you even to believe something that's so unprovable, so closed to logical examination and scientific evidence? Well, that's something each of us has to decide for ourselves. Ultimately you have to choose- to believe or not to believe.

Jesus wasn't cross with Thomas because Thomas didn't believe.

God gave us all enquiring minds, and he surely must want us to use them.

Using your intelligence to test things, to decide whether you can believe them or not, that's fine, that's good. That's what we were given intelligence for.

Just as long as we don't ever let our inquiring minds become closed minds.

Just as long as we have the humility to realise that there may be a reality that even the cleverest human minds are too limited to reach.



And to keep our minds open to the possibility that, one day, we will encounter that reality that is God, just as Thomas encountered his risen Lord.

And that then we will want to react as Thomas did: fall down in worship and say: My Lord and my God.

Tailpiece: *As Editor of your Newsletter, I am acutely aware of the danger of unfortunate misprints. So I am encouraged to see that other churches have had their embarrassing mistakes too: For example:*

“The Vicar would appreciate it if the ladies of the congregation would lend him their electric girdles for the pancake party on Shrove Tuesday.”

“This evening at 7 PM we will be singing hymns in the park across from the Church. Bring a blanket and come prepared to sin.”

“Please place your donation in the envelope along with the deceased person you want remembered.”

“Don’t let worry kill you off – let the Church help.”

“The sermon this morning: “Jesus Walks on the Water.” The sermon tonight: “Searching for Jesus.”

“We are holding a Fasting & Prayer Conference. Admission £6 including meals.”



CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE MAY NEWSLETTER BY APRIL 20th **PLEASE!**

Do you receive your Newsletter by email? **Please encourage others to do so too!**

- Email version normally reaches you before the printed version.
- Less work for our committed band of volunteer deliverers, (to whom we are most grateful)
- Easier to read.
- No charge.
- Email version often contains material which there wasn't room for in the printed version, e.g. extra news, pictures, cartoons, jokes...
- Environmentally friendly if you choose not to print it out, instead saving it to refer to when you want to.

Rosemary's email is rosiking2963@gmail.com If you would like to receive the newsletter by email, but aren't yet on the recipients' list, please just get in touch